**U.S. Small Business Administration** 



## Success News

San Antonio District Office www.sba.gov/tx/sanantonio

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## MUSTANG GENERAL CONTRACTING, INC.

Apprentice Becomes Successful Entrepreneur

**San Antonio, TX** – From apprentice, journeyman, to small business entrepreneur, Jerry Cavazos' successful journey was driven faith. Mr. Cavazos, president of Mustang General Contracting, Inc., states his journey was filled with hard work and a strong drive to succeed. "...I worked very hard not to let things get me down or slow me down," states Mr. Cavazos.

Mr. Cavazos began his career thirty years ago as an apprentice for Alamo Sheet Metal on W. Martin St. He was directed into the sheet metal apprenticeship program and soon became a journeyman. That still wasn't sufficient for Mr. Cavazos, so in October 1997, he started his business as a sub-contractor installing sheet metal HVAC ductwork and equipment. After two years of struggling as a sub-contractor, Mr. Cavazos contacted the U. S. Small Business Administration for assistance. His company is now a Certified 8(a) contractor with two divisions: sheet metal and iron fabrication using state-of-the art machinery, and a service division that handles indoor air quality duct cleaning. "Faith from my banker, bonding person, and government contracting officers helped us grow."

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In December 2003, Mr. Cavazos moved his company to San Antonio' West-side, an area considered economically disadvantaged (HUBZone). The new location is the original site where he started his journey thirty years prior. The dilapidated building was refurbished by Mr. Cavazos utilizing ornate iron-work, bright colors, antiques, and hanging artwork by famous Mexican artists. Giving back to his community is very important to Mr. Cavazos. "By moving into an economically disadvantaged area, we are promoting development in this distressed target zone," states Mr. Cavazos.

Mr. Cavazos is also a sheet metal sculptor, using his talent to express his deep inner thoughts. His first sculpture, <u>Dawn of Thought</u>, symbolizes his life. "The base symbolizes the survival state, we are scrambling to succeed. The rays on top symbolize the rays of success. The metal body symbolizes the different ways to reach the top."

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